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A WORD FOR MINOR POETRY.

The flood of verse that is produced in these latter days, and that somehow finds its way into print, offers a subject for serious reflection to the student of literary phenomena. Nothing like it was ever known before, since there never before was a period in which mastery of the elementary technique of verse was so common a possession among workers with the pen. Every now and then we learn with surprise that some famous scholar, whose reputation rests upon strictly prosaic achievements, has often had recourse to the composition of poetry as a recreation, and has long been dabbling in the art of rhyme and metre unknown to any but his most intimate associates. A few years ago, Mr. Lecky published a volume of verse that delighted all of its readers except those who based their sapient judgment upon the a priori grounds that so great a historian could not possibly have the poetical gift; and it was only the other day that a posthumous volume by the late Professor Romanes showed us that the scientific habit of thought by no means precludes possession of the sympathies and the sensibilities that are requisite for the production of very acceptable verse. Even the dry light in which the world appeared to a man of Huxley's temperament did not prevent him from penning one of the most striking of the many poetical tributes evoked by the death of Tennyson. Then, besides the occasional men of eminence in other intellectual fields who from time to time surprise us in this agreeable way, there are the writers - a very numerous host - who have no other distinction at all, but who every year swell the list of those who must be reckoned with when we estimate the choral forces of English song, far removed as they may be in both aim and achievement from the select ranks of the soloists.

The existence of this choir invisible — that is, invisible to the gaze of the general public—is a fact persistently borne in upon the consciousness of the closer student of contemporary literature. The reviewer of books, in particular, whose task it is to make some sort of assessment of from one to two hundred volumes of new verse every year, is acutely aware of this multitude of singing voices, and, unless he

be hopelessly committed to a standard of judgment impossible to apply in such cases, is bound in simple fairness, to recognize the sweet and sincere quality of many of the notes sounded, although he knows well enough that these notes will never penetrate very far into the popular consciousness. If he be honest, his attitude toward these bards struggling to make themselves heard will not be inspired by a fine Horatian scorn of poetical mediocrity so much as by the feeling that a good deal may be said in behalf of poetry that is not too bright and good for human nature's daily food. There are hours - and many of them - in our lives when we are content to browse upon the meadowlands of song, and leave the peaks unscaled. Even the poets that dwell upon the lowest slopes of Parnassus may offer some food for our spiritual sustenance.

The term "minor poetry" is of comparatively recent origin, and indicates a definite realization of the fact that there is a difference, not of degree merely, but of kind, between the singer of the age or the race and the warbler of the hour or the coterie. The distinction between the two is reasonably well marked, although in the nature of the case no hard and fast line of demarcation can be drawn. There are always some poets "on promotion," as it were, poets whose place we cannot quite determine because of the heated controversies occasioned by their work. Whitman, for example, was for many years in this condition of suspense, and now, long after his death, it is quite impossible to say whether he is a minor or a major poet. Mr. Kipling may be taken as a living illustration of this uncertainty of classification. Then there are occasionally mute inglorious Miltons, as far as the larger public is concerned, who nevertheless are both vocal and glorious in the estimation of the cultured few. But the distinction between major and minor poets is worth making, in spite of the difficulty of dealing with a few exceptional reputations, and it is coming to be seen more and more clearly that the minor poet has a mission and an utterance of his own; or, to supply a concrete illustration, that Mr. Dobson is in no sense a rival of Mr. Swinburne, but rather a worker in different materials, shaping them to different, and, in a way, to equally successful ends.

If this position be well taken, it will follow that there is no reproach in the title of minor poet. We do not think slightingly of the bluebird because it is not an eagle, nor do we wrong the singer of simple lyrics because he has been

denied the power to fashion epics or dramatic tragedies. When we

"Read from some humbler poet,
Whose songs gushed from his heart,
As showers from the clouds of summer,
Or tears from the cyclids start,"

we are not justified in measuring him by the standard of Milton and Shakespeare, but should rather ask: Does he accomplish what he has sought to accomplish; is there a natural balance between gift and utterance; has he power to stir the springs of emotion at his own spiritual level and upon his own terms? Some years ago, Mr. Slason Thompson published a collection of the minor poetry that, in newspaper and magazine, had appealed to him for a score of years past. He styled his collection "The Humbler Poets," and was in consequence, we believe, the recipient of more than one indignant remonstrance from versifiers who thought themselves anything but humble. But the very fact that a "humble" or minor poet should be too proud to accept the ascription, proves, as far as it proves anything, that the remonstrant does not deserve the title of poet in any sense, that his aim has been so far mistaken as to make his work relatively a failure.

Speaking of the "hedgerow poems" of his collection, Mr. Thompson said fittingly: "There come hours to every lover of poetry when he wishes for 'some simple and heartfelt lay,' something that shall speak from out a mind feeling the everyday cares of life amid the multitude, and not from the heights to which the masters 'proudly stooped." Something of this feeling, expressed with more of elaboration, and based upon more broadly philosophical grounds, may be found in the preface to "A Treasury of Minor British Poetry" (Arnold), recently published by Mr. J. Churton Collins. Here we are told that:

"It is in the minor poetry of an age that contemporary life impresses itself most deeply, and finds perhaps its most faithful mirror. In the great masterpieces of poetry that life is presented in an ideal light, and in relation to ideal truth. What belongs to a time is subordinated to what belongs to all time, what is actual to what is typical, what is local to what is universal. There is, moreover, in genius of the higher order a dominant, a despotic individuality which tempers and assimilates the material on which it works to its own potent idiosyncrasy."

The author then goes on more specifically to say that in Langland, not Chaucer, "the England of Edward III. becomes fully articulate," and that neither Spenser, nor Shake-speare, nor Milton, completely reflects the England of the period in which he lived.

"It is otherwise with the minor poetry of any particular era. Here for the eelecticism, if we may so express it, of the great masters the age itself finds a tongue. For the voice which speaks in these poets is the voice of the nation, of the courtier, of the statesman, and man of affairs, of the scholar, and litterateur, of the Churchman, of the man of pleasure, of the busy citizen, of the recluse, of the soldier and sailor, of the peasant, of the mechanic, and of women of all classes and of all callings. What is moulding, what is colouring, what is in any way affecting the life of the time has its record here. Is the pulse of the nation quickened or depressed; are imagination and passion, or fancy and sentiment, or reason and reflection in the ascendant, is the prevailing tendency in the direction of simplicity and nature, or towards ingenuity and art, is the moral tone in society high or low, is the period a period of progress, or of decadence, or of transition,— the answer to all this may be found, and found in detail, in our collections of minor poetry."

A COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION OF POETS.

It is amazing how few serviceable sign-posts or blazed paths the criticism of twenty-five centuries has furnished for the wayfarer in the realm of literature. By dint of ceaseless comparison, the older writers have got established in some sort of rank, though this is always subject to revision; but for newer writers we are reduced to the kind of phraseology we find in the margins of books in a public library, - shadowy glosses which strive to stand up against the dignity of the text by the prop of exclama-tion marks. It is possible that criticism is a failure; that we cannot analyze the charm of a poet, any more than we can dissect a beautiful woman and find out the secret of her power; that the true attitude in either case is to say, "You are beautiful; your grace fills my soul; I love you!" But the game of criticism is delightful, even if played without rules.

Perhaps the most valuable distinction ever made in criticism is De Quincey's, or rather Wordsworth's, separation of the "literature of knowledge" and the "literature of power." That distinction is certain - though in many authors the line cannot be accurately drawn. Lessing's demarcation of the provinces of poetry, painting, and sculpture, is of course invaluable, and might be carried farther. Aristotle's "imitation of life" and Arnold's "critieism of life" both fail to serve us, the one being too broad and the other too narrow. In Arnold's case, indeed, it is curious to study the fluctuations of epinion about the chief good in poetry, which he fell into at various periods of his life. In the preface to his poems, he decries the care for expression, and declares for creative art, the description of noble actions, as the main thing to seek for. A little later, in the Essays on Guerin and Celtic Literature, it is mainly style that takes his fancy, "natural magie" and the like. Toward the end of his life he grav-itated to the "grand style," which, if definite mean-ing can attach to the phrase, seems to imply the

impassioned utterance of great thought. Lowell is even more confusing. He is like the universe, in that he has his centre everywhere and his circumference nowhere. He is capable of laying down a half-dozen contradictory doctrines in a single essay, and leaving you to take your choice. Mr. Theodore Watts has tried to give us a distinction by which we may group poets in his "relative and absolute visions." But, alas, one suspects that all "vision" is relative.

The main contention in modern criticism is in regard to the respective value of matter and form. A recent editor of Catullus says that "to conceive simply and express vividly is the whole end of art," and that "the secret of immortality can be learned better from Catullus than from anyone else." On the other hand, Goethe uniformly condemns the preoccupation with style, and decides that if one has something to say the rest will follow. Mr. Swinburne selects one quality of expression — rhythm—and makes that the pivotal point: "A poet must sing." And so the whole question is a muddle.

I can imagine a sort of deified schoolmaster to whom all the books of the world should be sent up for examination, and who, after turning over in his mind the component parts of good literature, should mark them accordingly. The first quality that would engage his mind would doubtless be expression, diction, style, - name it as you will. To a certain extent, style is weight of matter; for the gift hinges largely on the amount you can express or imply in little. But not altogether,—in spite of the Goethean doctrine that if you have your matter ready the style will come. It will, if you are born that way. The girl who received from the fairy the gift of uttering pearls and diamonds every time she opened her mouth, probably did not differ greatly from her unhappy sister who could only speak toads and frogs. Lucretius describes his primordial atoms as of various kinds: some were round and smooth, and these, flowing off from each other, formed the air; some were square and rough, and these, coalescing closer, produced the water; and others had little hooks attached to them, and out of these the solid structure of the world was built. Well, the gaseous, watery, and solid structures of literature are built up out of words which possess characteristics in common with the atoms of the Latin poet. My examiner would therefore accept style as the first necessity of literature, and might set down a hundred marks for perfection in it.

The second requisite he would decide to be creative power. Looking into this power closely, he would see that some authors are better in creating men and some in setting forth women. Still more closely considered, he would see that there are some great poets—notably Lucretius, Wordsworth, Shelley—who had little force in human portraiture, but had a gift of embodying universal nature in a sense which may be called creative. If, therefore, he allowed a hundred marks to the whole quantity of creativeness, he would assign a third of this number to each of the sub-divisions. He would remark, too,

that creative force seems to come from the heart rather than the brain, and that accordingly the great authors love their bad characters equally with their good ones; and he would be inclined to mark very low those modern novelists who go on a different principle and seem to think that a large proportion of their personages ought to be in the penitentiary.

The third requisite would be thought. My imaginary critic would see that there is a difference between width of thought and depth of thought,—that English literature is wider than French, and German than English. I suppose there is no student who has not remarked, on going from English to German books, that he had got into a wider horizon and one with windows in it. The critic would therefore divide his hundred marks for this branch into two equal parts.

The fourth important qualification for greatness is mass, quantity. A single mountain may have the same height and be of the same kind of rock as a range; but it would be absurd to make them equally

important.

Having settled his preliminaries, my examiner would proceed to put them into use. For this purpose, he might take up the four accepted masters of the world, and mark them in the various excellences he had proposed. And first, as to style, he might say to Homer: "You are still the enchanter of mankind. Your verse is as musical and as picturesque as when it rolled and lived before the Greeks. The one dominating quality in your poetry is splendor. The sun never seems to set in the Iliad or Odyssey." And to Dante and Shakespeare, he would say: "In this you are his equals. Not any of those poets who have been specialists in style and little else, not Catullus or Keats, can match you." But on Goethe he would turn a melancholy eye, and say: "Well, sir, you see what comes of despising style. You have no style. On a plain matter, such as a song or a ballad, you do well enough, though even here Burns or Heine can beat you. But for the lightning phrase, the wheel revolving so rapidly that the spokes disappear and nothing is left but a burning circle, there you are nothing. And your whole works, great as they are, are as formless as polyps. No, your three brothers must each get the mark of perfection, one hundred, for this business; but you can

consider yourself lucky if I put you down for fifty."

Taking up the question of creative power, he would say to Homer: "You had the luck to come first, and you are credited with having named the sons of men. But, honestly, you have omitted a vast number. The whole tribe of comedy escaped you. Humor knows you not. Imagine a world without Falstaff, or Don Quixote, or Tartuffe! Still, if you do not run in every race you are first where you compete; there is no other such splendid image of youth in literature as Achilles, and your Nausicaa is the clearest, freshest girl in poetry. Take twenty-five each for men and woman. There remains your embodiments of nature. You are not a master of incarnation in this kind, as is Lucretius or Shelley,

but of the four I am considering you give the broadest, most elemental effects. Twenty-five again." Then, turning to Dante, he would say: "Your men are tremendous, and your women the most intense and concentrated figures the world knows. You paint the night of nature rather than its day, and only as night or twilight is more monotonous than day are you inferior to Homer. Take ninety for your total for creative power." Then to Shakespeare: "You are unequalled in scope and variety in all art. Your women have been reproached for sameness; but 't is a wide range from Cleopatra to Lady Macbeth, from Lady Macbeth to Constance. from Constance to your innumerable individualized young girls. You paint nature as a background to humanity. All in all, you must take the same mark as Dante." Last, he would say to Goethe: "You, sir, have painted a dozen women, one devil, and practically no men - none at least that an apprentice would not be ashamed of. You have put off the wild demonism of nature, and altogether your mark must be about seventy."

As to depth of thought, he would say to Homer as the Egyptian priest did to Solon: "You Greeks are children. The Scandinavian skalds were profound beside you. If shallow, your thought is wide. Marked seventy-five in this branch." To Dante: "You are the deepest of mortals, and the narrowest. Seventy-five for you also." To Shakespeare: "You possess in perfect balance the all-embracing and all-revealing thought." To Goethe: "You are as wide as the world; all races and kinds of men speak through you. But they do not speak so powerfully as in Shakespeare. One hundred, then, for him;

for you, ninety."

As for mass of important work, this factor, while a necessary element in greatness, is hardly of equal value to the other three requisites. My examiner would perhaps give fifty points to Shakespeare as the highest; forty to Goethe, and twenty-five each to Homer and Dante.

Here I would take leave of my competitive examiner,—if only for fear that his presumption might get me into trouble. But I cannot forbear tabulating the above results with some others arrived at by the same methods, and so have done.

Homer					275	Catullus			125
Dante					290	Horace			145
Shakeer	ea	re			340	Shelley			163
Goethe						Keats			155
Author						Wordsworth			178
Æachyl	us				255	Leopardi .			170
Pindar						Milton			215
Aristop	hai	nes			175	Gray			115
Cervant						Hugo			165
Chaucer						Burns			160
Moliére						Heine			160
Virgil					180	Byron			160

Every critic, of course, would get a different result in each division and sub-division, according to this method; but these would at least serve as fences to prevent opinion from huddling into one corner, and possibly compel an approximately true result.

CHARLES LEONARD MOORE.

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE TRUE CRITICAL ATTITUDE,

Everyone was relieved when it appeared, from recent numbers of THE DIAL, that Mr. O. L. Triggs had helped your Whitman reviewer out of the pit which is ready for everybody who writes about Walt Whitman.

When your reviewer has had one or two more escapes of this kind, he will be convinced that his own method of criticism is futile and that he must become absolutely and unswervingly absorbed. He will doubtless learn in time that to understand or appreciate anything you must surrender yourself to it entirely, and, for the time being, judge everything else by that one thing. As Mr. Triggs so excellently points out, there is only one way to criticise Walt Whitman,—translate all life and all literature into terms of Whitman, and then express Whitman in terms so acquired. But Mr. Triggs might have added that this is the only way to criticize anything. Dismiss former standards, get wholly absorbed in what you are to judge, look at everything from the point of view so gained, and then express your views. This is the only true criticism of literature or of life; although I do not know that before Mr. Triggs anyone ever stated it quite so definitely.

For my part, excellent as is his theory, I could wish

For my part, excellent as is his theory, I could wish that Mr. Triggs were a little more of a middle-of-theroad Whitmaniac in practice. I am thinking of those passages in his letter where he sees fit to explain Walt Whitman by references to Christ and Socrates, argumenta ad hominem which I must take leave to call claptrap. That is not absorption in Whitman. Whitman does not interpret himself by Christ and Socrates: he interprets them by himself; and so does Mr. Triggs, or else what he writes on Whitman criticism is pretentious rhodomontade. Let us not imagine such a thing. Mr. Triggs is a comrade of the right sort: there is nothing "cold, critical, disinterested" about him: although he does shrink from going to the logical length of his theory. I, however, have no such hesitation, and I beg space in

your valuable columns to lay down the following truths:

1. There is no such thing as criticism of Walt Whitman (or anyone else), or, rather, if there is it is cold, hesitating, niggardly, judicial, negative, professional, and no one need consider it; or, more plainly, if you do not wish to take Walt Whitman on his own terms you must not read his books.

2. There is nothing but appreciation, which must be deeply and widely sympathetic, without reservation, boundlessly enthusiastic, emotional, and various other things,— in fact, absorption.

3. There is (as everyone knows) but one Walt Whitman: it is not so generally understood that, although he has a good many prophets, there is but one who is the true genuine article.

EDWARD E. HALE, JR.

Union College, March 6, 1897.

"LEARN" FOR "TEACH" IN TENNYSON.

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

I was much interested and instructed by Professor Brown's article in your last issue, on "Dialectal Survivals from Chaucer." In one of his examples he cites the verb learn used for teach. I am curious to know what he would say if he found that same use in Tennyson,—whether he would read that now mighty shade a lesson in English grammar, or call up printer and proof-

reader for a scolding. I fear there would be little satisfaction in either case, for Tennyson's use of learn for teach in the passage which I am about to quote seems to have been deliberate and intended. In the second stanza, or division, of "Merlin and the Gleam" these lines occur:

"Mighty the Wizard
Who found me at sunrise
Sleeping, and woke me
And learn'd me Magic."

I quote from the first English edition of "Demeter and Other Poems," 1889. In Houghton and Mifflin's Household Edition, complete, the word appears in the same form, apostrophe and all. It is a small yet singular matter, which perhaps Professor Brown can make plain — or relegate to a dialectal survival. JOHN ALBEE.

Pequaket, N. H., March 4, 1897.

A SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF AMERICAN DIALECT. (To the Editor of The Dial.)

At a recent meeting of the American Dialect Society, a committee was appointed to supervise the reading of American books, for the purpose of collecting all words and uses of words not yet recorded in dictionaries. This is part of the larger work of the Society in gathering all dialectal material which represents spoken and written usage in America. Such material will be eventually incorporated, it is hoped, in a compendious American Dialect Dictionary, similar to the English Dialect Dictionary now in course of publication.

The reading of American books for this purpose has already begun, but the committee desires to secure more volunteers for this great and important undertaking. The books to be read include especially all dialect novels, as well as dialect stories and sketches in magazines or special volumes. Besides, American books of all sorts, particularly books of early date, may furnish valuable material. Anyone who wishes to assist in the reading is invited to address the chairman of the committee, stating the book or books he wishes to undertake, or asking for assignment of reading. Such volunteers will receive a circular of directions, describing a simple and uniform plan of collecting and reporting dialect words.

The committee hopes to secure the cooperation of teachers of English or other languages in colleges and schools, of clergymen, and of people of leisure who are interested in observing peculiarities in language. The assistance of all such, as well as of any others who are willing to undertake the reading, is earnestly solicited. The importance of such an enterprise need not be urged. The undertaking should appeal to all Americans, as contributing to settle the relations of English in Britain and America, and as showing the growth and development of the language upon American soil. Besides, the Dictionary which will doubtless grow out of the work of the Dialect Society will be a reliable compendium of American usage, useful not only to this generation but to coming ones.

The committee in general charge of the work consists of Professor Benjamin I. Wheeler of Cornell University, Mr. E. H. Babbitt of Columbia, and the chairman, whose name appears below.

O. F. EMERSON.

Western University, Cleveland, Ohio, March 8, 1897.

NEARLY twenty-seven thousand books were published last year in Japan, about twenty thousand of them being either translations or compilations.

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The New Books.

Two New Books on Washington.*

New books on Washington, if well written, are always to be welcomed. They show that interest is felt in the man, not only by authors and publishers, but by readers also, for without readers publishers would not publish books on such a theme or authors write them. We can hardly think of a sign more hopeful for the country than a well-grounded belief that the readers of the country, and particularly the young people of the country, are deeply interested in the really great men that the country has produced. Our best educators are men, not dogmas, principles, or systems. The belief just referred to, the frequent appearance of such books as the two now before us tends to create or strengthen. If the present period in our national history is attended by the peculiar dangers that some people think, it would be hard to imagine anything that would tend more directly to make the nation strong to overcome these dangers than a general appreciative study of the life, character, and work of Washington.

The two books referred to, while both good of their kind, are quite different in character. Professor Wilson's ten chapters bear the headings: "In Washington's Day," "A Virginia Breeding," "Colonel Washington," "Mount Vernon Days," "The Heat of Politics," "Piloting a Revolution," "General Washington,"
"The Stress of Victory," "First in Peace,"
"The First President of the United States." These titles do not suggest a symmetrical, allaround work on their subject, but rather a series of studies of some of the greater and more interesting phases of the man. And such is the fact; the volume is made up of magazine articles. While it is not what the author would produce if setting himself to the production of a life of Washington rather than to a series of effective studies of him, it is still well worthy of commendation to the reading public. The matter is well chosen, a sense of proportion is observed, and the literary workmanship is good. The book is rather rich in quotable passages.

We have been particularly interested in the last study, which recounts how Washington strove to establish what we may now call the tradition of the Presidency. At present, when official dignity is sometimes forgotten and some. times remembered only to be condemned, this admirable chapter could hardly be too widely read. How much Washington's efforts in this particular direction had to do with making the new government successful, Professor Wilson hints rather than expressly states in the following passage:

"While he waited to be made President, he called upon every Senator and Representative then in attendance upon Congress, with the purpose to show them upon how cordial and natural a basis of personal acquaintance he wished, for his part, to see the govern-ment conducted; but the oath of office once taken, he was no longer a simple citizen, as he had been during those two days of waiting; the dignity of the govern-ment had come into his keeping with the office. Hence-forth he would pay no more calls, accept no invitations. On a day fixed he would receive calls; and he would show himself once a week at Mrs. Washington's general receptions. He would invite persons of official rank or marked distinction to his table at suitable intervals. There should be no pretense of seclusion, no parade of inaccessibility. The President should be a republican officer, the servant of the people. But he would not be common. It should be known that his office and authority were the first in the land. Every proper outward form of dignity, ceremony, and self-respect should be observed that might tell wholesomely upon the imagination of the people; that might be made to serve as a visible sign, which no man could miss, that there was here no vestage of the old federal authority, at which it had been the fashion to laugh, but a real government, and that the greatest in the land."

One is glad to know that such writing as this commands the large audience of one of the

great magazines of the country.

The second of our two books excites a different class of reflections. One of our best students of American history, the late Professor Alexander Johnston, after remarking upon the intense opposition that the Constitution of the United States encountered at the time of its ratification — an opposition so great that the change of two votes out of sixty in New York, of five votes out of a hundred and sixty-eight in Virginia, and of ten votes out of three hundred and fifty-five in Massachusetts would have defeated it - says:

"It is not a little odd to notice how rapidly this intense opposition was supplanted by what Von Holst has called 'the worship of the Constitution.' Within four years after its formation, and in the second year after its ratification, its original opponents had begun to pose as friends of the Constitution; and from that day to this the chorus in praise of its general scheme and of its details has been swelled higher by every minority which has found here its last and strongest bulwark against the power of the majority."

Something like this might be said of Wash-

^{*}George Washington. By Woodrow Wilson. Illustrated by Howard Pyle, Harry Fell, and others. New York: Harper & Brothers.

THE TRUE GRONGE WASHINGTON. By Paul Leicester Ford. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.

ington. Nearly driven from the command of the army in 1778 by a politico-military cabal; factiously and almost successfully resisted in certain leading features of his policy as president; maligned in office as few Americans have been maligned, and followed to the retreat of Mount Vernon in 1797 by a loud volley of vituperation,- he was no sooner in his grave than the opinion rapidly culminated which found its fittest expression in the famous phrase, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Appreciation, in fact, went so far that long ago it became as treasonable for an American to question the supreme wisdom and virtue of Washington as it was to doubt the absolute perfection of the Constitution. And was not the Constitution a work of "divine inspiration"? Of course Washington does not stand alone in this respect. Think of Lincoln in 1864 and in 1897! Nor is the idealizing of men peculiar to our times or to the United States. Mr. Ford finds examples of it in the legends of the East, the folk-lore of Europe, and the traditions of the native races of America. He even assumes that the mythology which "the keen, practical American of to-day" creates is akin to the process that gave the world Jupiter, Wotan, and King Arthur. It is only in a very remote sense, if at all, that a parallelism can be said to exist between these ancient creations and our national hero. But Mr. Ford is nearer the truth when he says:

"By a slow evolution we have well-nigh discarded from the lives of our greatest men of the past all human faults and feelings; have closed their greatness in glass of the clearest crystal, and hung up a sign, 'Do not touch.' Indeed, with such characters as Washington, Franklin, and Lincoln, we have practically adopted the English Maxim that 'The King can do no wrong.' In place of men, limited by human limits, and influenced by human passions, we have demigods so stripped of human characteristics as to make us question even whether they deserve much credit for their sacrifices and deeds."

It is no doubt true that the canonizing process has been more active for the last hundred years in the United States than in the old countries of Europe, and for the best of reasons. To a degree, human experience is transmitted from generation to generation, and from country to country; in a sense, the world grows old together. But there is good cause for thinking that every new people which attains to a distinct national existence and life, no matter how dependent it may be historically upon others, must have a little mythology of its own. Abused as the term may be, there is such a thing as a national psychology; not only so, the birth of a new people or nation is accomplished in, or at least is attended by, a state of mind that is favorable to the idealizing process. The attainment of nationality is a great gain; it has cost labor and sacrifice; somebody must be entitled to gratitude; the tendency to individualization points to a person or to persons as the proper recipients of this gratitude whenever the facts will at all permit it,—such seems to be the nature of the process. In the present case, the great qualities of the man canonized facilitated the operation.

We do not, therefore, think it so strange that "the keen, practical American of to-day chould canonize his Washington and Lincoln. The time may come when he will cease to canonize new heroes, but there is little occasion to think that he will ever uncanonize the old ones. Even such realistic books as Mr. Ford's will produce little effect upon the popular mind. And why should they? The historical critic will say something about "the truth of history"; but it would not be hard to prove that the great national idealizations of history, so far from being sources of evil, are rather sources of great good. Mr. Ford is not of this opinion; at least he asks whether, in the case of Washington, we have not lost more than we have gained, both in example and in interest. Holding that opinion firmly, he seeks "to humanize him," "to make him a man rather than a historical figure"; but he restores our confidence when he assures us that, as the result of his investigation, he thinks Washington greater than he thought him before he entered upon his "humanizing" work.

We have taken so much space with these general reflections that little remains in which to speak of the book itself. We have found it distinctly readable. Under the heads " Family Relations," "Physique," "Education," "Relations with the Fair Sex," "Farmer and Proprietor," "Master and Employer," "Social Life," "Tastes and Amusements," "Friends," "Enemies," "Soldier," "Citizen and Office-Holder," the author groups a great amount of information, and largely out-of-the-way information, that is interesting and much of it valuable. Often this information is conveyed in the form of quotations from Washington's own pen. It is not impossible that some of the information conveyed will be shocking to the old-fashioned worshipper of the Father of his Country, as when, for example, he comes upon the accounts of some of Washington's first ventures in politics. Mr. Ford also thinks it probable that Washington partially outgrew, in his more mature years, the disability that the Rev. Mason L. Weems accredits to him, of being unable at the age of six to tell a lie. But interesting and valuable as Mr. Ford's book is, we hope he does not think for a moment that it really presents the true Washington to the reader's eye. He has gathered, with great patience and industry, a mass of very valuable material, which also he has worked up in good literary form; but he does not present, and perhaps did not intend to present, any full or complete picture of the real Washington. A mass of disjecta membra does not constitute a man. B. A. HINSDALE.

PARTY POWER IN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.*

In the recent literature of government there is a curious note of uneasiness. The old conviction that autocratic power must everywhere yield to popular sovereignty, made effective through some form of the parliamentary plan, is becoming sensibly weaker. It once seemed just to estimate the maturity of any people's governmental institutions according to the degree in which they approximated the system so skilfully built up in England. As a popular impression, this has been largely due to the difficulty of gaining comprehensive views of the political conditions which obtain outside of America and England. Living in an intellectual atmosphere, filled, as it were, with the parliamentary idea, it has been hard to conceive of a different state of affairs except as temporary and transitional in character.

By his volumes on "Governments and Parties in Continental Europe," Mr. A. Lawrence Lowell has greatly facilitated the comparative study of institutions and has thus supplied a much needed corrective. Mr. Lowell's work covers France and Italy; Germany, including the Empire, Prussia, and many of the smaller states; Austro-Hungary, and Switzerland. His method of presenting his subject requires a few words of explanation, for he has given us something better than a digest of half a dozen European constitutions. He starts from the fact that it is often impossible to understand the actual operations of government without considering many things not suggested by the mechanism provided in the fundamental law.

Among these, he singles out the phenomena of parties, which he believes have not received the attention they deserve. His particular aim, accordingly, is to study the relation of their development to the actual structure of government. For this purpose, after describing the chief institutions of each country, he enters largely into the recent history of parties and into the more significant features of party life.

In his description of the political organization of France, Mr. Lowell has made unusually intelligible the causes for the peculiar Continental distinction between private law and publie or administrative law. A simple illustration will make the importance of this distinction clear. If in England or the United States a citizen suffers wrong at the hands of officials in the supposed performance of their duty, he may obtain redress in the ordinary courts. In most European countries, on the contrary, the ordinary courts have no jurisdiction over such matters, which are assigned to special administrative courts. Writing of France, Mr. Lowell says that any attempt on the part of the ordinary courts to judge administrative acts, and thus pass on questions of public policy, "would be regarded as an invasion of the province of the executive." Thus there is in France "one law for the citizen and another for the public official." In explaining historically the contrast between English and French practice, Mr. Lowell is led to discuss the growth in France of the doctrine of the separation of powers. While what he says is on the whole true, has he not misunderstood the reasons which led the Constituent Assembly in 1789 to proclaim, in the Declaration of the Rights of Man, that a society in which the separation of powers is not defined has no constitution at all? From the debate, August 26, on this famous principle, it is evident that the leaders of the Constituent did not have in mind possible encroachments on the part of the judiciary. They were affirming the doctrine in order to limit the power of the executive, not in order to facilitate its action. The words of the Archbishop of Aix are especially significant. After remarking that unless the legislative power was separated from the executive a despotism would be created, he added: "The agents of the executive would never make laws except to their own advantage and would never execute the laws against their advantage." In other words, the men of 1789 could not have had much sympathy with the exemption of officials from the legal consequences of executive acts.

^{*} GOVERNMENTS AND PARTIES IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE. By A. Lawrence Lowell. In two volumes. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Mr. Lowell, in his chapters on Italy, discusses the same legal distinction and the manner in which it renders easy arbitrary executive action. The Italians are even more inclined than the French to encourage government by ordinance. Parliament has, says Mr. Lowell. "a habit of delegating legislative power to the ministers." For example, the final text of the recent criminal code was not submitted to the Chambers at all, since they had authorized the government after the preliminary debates to complete and enact the code, harmonizing it with previous statutes. Indeed, there is in Italy a " marked contradiction between the theory and practice of government; for there is a strong ambition to be abreast of the times and a general belief in the principles of personal liberty; but the actual condition of the nation has made it impossible to live up to these standards."

The difficulties of parliamentary government in France are much discussed, and yet each new diagnosis is anxiously scanned, to discover, if possible, the source of the political evils which threaten the great Continental Republic. Mr. Lowell remarks that there has been in the Chamber of Deputies recently a tendency away from excessive subdivision into groups and toward the formation of two parties. It is the group evil which is largely responsible, of course, for the dangerous ease with which ministries are overthrown. But Mr. Lowell has made the insecure position of the French cabinet still more intelligible by his explanation of the influence of the committee system. The committees are chosen, in both Senate and Chamber of Deputies, by the various Bureaux, each bureau having a member on every committee, and two or three members on the large committees. As the make-up of the bureau is determined by lot, and as the bureau is renewed each month, it is obvious that any given committee may be politically hostile to the ministry in power. The ministry may therefore be forced to see its favorite legislative measures amended quite without its sanction. It can rarely count upon continued friendly cooperation. And yet it cannot decline its responsibility in the initiation of legislative measures, any more than it can decline to be responsible for the administration.

The admirers of the parliamentary system will get very little comfort from Mr. Lowell's pages on Germany. They have ordinarily been unable to believe that the glowing promises of the constitutional struggles of the past would

be unfulfilled, and that Germany would long remain an administrative despotism. But at the end of his discussion Mr. Lowell concludes that "popular government in Germany is neither probable or desirable." He does not think ministerial responsibility is possible under existing arrangements. These give the Bundesrath, a comparatively inconspicuous body, more actual power than the Reichstag, which does little except consider bills which the Chancellor and the Bundesrath have prepared. Since it is through the Bundesrath, as the council of the federated states, that Prussia exercises her supremacy, any attempt of the Reichstag to control the imperial cabinet and to overshadow the Bundesrath would seriously endanger the Prussian hegemony and would meet with determined resistance. Moreover, as the chancellor of the empire has, with the exception of a portion of Caprivi's administration, been also the President of the Prussian council, he could not be responsible at once to the Reichstag and Landtag. The separation of the two offices would, however, - and actually did from 1892 to 1894, - make the pursuit of a harmonious policy in Prussian and Imperial affairs difficult.

Much that Mr. Lowell says about the minor governments of Germany will be new to his readers, since these governments are rarely described. His study of the race problem in Hungary is instructive. There is also a valuable chapter on the practical working of the referendum and initiative in Switzerland. He finds the referendum rather unpopular.

HENRY E. BOURNE.

MORE PSYCHIC RESEARCH.*

The only serviceable function performed by Dr. R. Osgood Mason's work on "Telepathy and the Subliminal Self" is to give an opportunity to those who care to know something of the observations and views of "psychic researchers" to acquire such information with a reasonable expenditure of energy. The author is perfectly convinced that telepathy, or the communication of mind with mind without the use of the ordinary channels of sensation, is as thoroughly established as the laws of the solar

^{*}Telepathy and the Subliminal Self: An Account of Recent Investigations Regarding Hypnotism, Automatism, Dreams, Phantasms, and Related Phenomena. By R. Osgood Mason, M.D. With frontispiece. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

system, and when universally accepted will prove as beneficial to man's conception of the universe as any of the great contributions to knowledge. Further, the subliminal self—which is our ordinary semi-automatic sub-conscious action separated out from the rest of our mental complex and elevated to the dignity of an alter and a better ego—is the active and efficient agent in telepathy, in phantasms, in automatism, in hypnotism, and all the transcendental manifestations of our souls.

This is the point of view of the book — a point of view shared by a considerable number of mankind; and granted its correctness, the account of the phenomena given by Dr. Mason must be pronounced clear, concise, and plausible. From a scientific point of view, the work is extremely weak, and its tendencies pernicious. "Psychic Research" is a conglomerate term including a variety of phenomena, some of which stand upon an entirely different footing from others, and the study of no two of which can be successfully pursued by the same methods. Hypnotism, dreams, and some of the phenomena of automatic action, have been thoroughly established by the same kind of evidence as led to the recognition and study of the various kinds of insanity. The evidence for telepathy and veridical dreams and phantasms is wholly different in its logical force; and, what is equally important, the interest in them is a fundamentally different one. The interest in the study of abnormal mental phenomena is thoroughly legitimate; but the popular interest, which must be constantly fed by startling coincidences and nibblings at the occult, is in the search for transcendental laws that will bring back the days of miracles and reveal the secret passage to Nature's storehouse. This is an unwholesome interest. In Dr. Mason's book, as in most books of this kind, all these various phenomena are jumbled together and treated as though they were equally "occult," equally unrelated to other forms of knowledge, and could only be established by appeals to endless narratives by persons whose character is above suspicion, and who are perfectly certain that they gave no indications of their thoughts, and that no one could possibly know this or that detail of their lives,—and so on, and so on. To this is added, for the benefit of the skeptic, the moral lesson to be drawn from the fate of those who refused to look through Galileo's telescope, and the fact that most great laws and teachings had a hard struggle for acceptance. The difficulty with those who reason in this way is a

totally perverse conception of the logic of science; they fail to realise that their analogies are irrelevant because the logical problem involved in the several cases is utterly different. A carload of evidence of one kind is not worth as much as a thimbleful of another kind.

In still another way is the tendency of such writings as Dr. Mason's an undesirable one. He speaks of these investigations of alleged supernatural powers as the results of "the new psychology," as "experimental psychology"; and the notion is spread abroad that the modern study for which college professorships are maintained is mainly concerned with such speculations. The professor is supposed to be devoting all his energies to collecting cases of coincidences and ghosts and trance utterances, and the like, and is constantly assailed privately and publicly by wearisome and meaningless stories of commonplace coincidences, and by demands for explanations of personal idiosyncrasies and experiences. Of course modern psychology deals with very different problems, and is founded upon very different methods and interests; the psychological laboratory is not a seance hall; and the psychic experiences are a great bore to the professor. None the less, the popular impression - which, in our democratic environment at least, is not to be ignored—goes forward that this is psychology; and the interests of an essential and potent factor of modern knowledge are endangered. A popular interest in mental phenomena is in itself most desirable; but the interest should be expended upon the significant and ever-present phenomena of our mental make-up, and not be wasted in sentimental strivings for the occult. Why exhaust one's energies in trying to fly, when the things of our desire are within easy access of journeys by foot!

"Ich sag' es dir : ein Kerl der speculirt, Ist wie ein Thier, auf dürrer Heide Von einem bösen Geist im Kreis herum geführt, Und rings umher liegt schöne grüne Weide."

JOSEPH JASTROW.

THE London "Bookman" says: "The Clarendon press has undertaken a work of important magnitude and scope in the complete edition of the classics of Great Britain. The form of the volumes, it is said, will be the best that modern presswork can give. It will be interesting to follow the discussion of the works which may properly be placed among the classics of the language, especially when it comes to the consideration of prose. The edition will be brought out under the suspices of the most competent literary authorities of the time, from whose judgment there will be no appeal."

AN ENGLISH WOMAN IN WEST AFRICA.*

If a visitor from Mars should take a trip round our sphere, and on his return home should report his most important observation as to the state of affairs on Earth, this would doubtless be the fact that the people of one small corner are fast spreading over and subduing the whole planet. That the globe is being Europeanized is certainly the most salient fact, and the most significant, of our time. This great migration and conquest, which has been going on for four centuries and may continue for four more, so dwarfs all previous historic events that even the extension of the Roman Empire seems but a ripple compared to a tidal wave.

The continent which is now most exploited by Europeans is undoubtedly Africa, and hence it is a centre of interest both for what it is and for what it has been. Scientific observers feel that the indigenous life of Africa, animal and human, is about to pass away, or lose its primitive character; and so all haste must be made to study the fast-perishing types. Miss Kingsley enrolls herself as such an observer, when she announces in her book of "Travels in West Africa" that her "chief motive for going to West Africa" was to study "the African form of thought."

The most important chapters in this book are those on Fetish. Here the author shows a thoroughly scientific temper, with much penetration and judgment; and the result is a distinct contribution to anthropology and specially to the science of religion. Her inquiries convince her that religion begins neither in the worship of nature nor of the dream-world, but "lies in man's misfortunes."

"There can be little doubt that the very earliest human beings found, as their descendants still find, their plans frustrated, let them plan ever so wisely and carefully; they must have seen their companions overtaken by death and disaster, arising both from things they could see and from things they could not see. The distinction between these two classes of phenomena is not so definitely recognized by savages or animals as it is by the more cultured races of humanity. I doubt whether a savage depends on his five senses alone to teach him what the world is made of, any more than a Fellow of the Royal Society does. From this method of viewing nature, I feel sure that the general idea arose — which you find in all early cultures—that death was always the consequence of the action of some malignant spirit, and that there is no accidental or natural death, as we call it; and death is, after all, the most impressive attribute of

life. If a man were knocked on the head with a club, or shot with an arrow, the cause of death is clearly the malignancy of the person using these weapons; and so it is easy to think that a man killed by a fallen tree, or by the upsetting of a canoe in the surf or in an eddy in the river, is also the victim of some being using these things as weapons."

This certainly is an interesting and suggestive point of view, and the whole treatment of the subject is worthy of careful attention.

However, by far the most interesting portion of this book to many readers will be the graphic description of Miss Kingsley's journey from Kangwe to Agonjo, in large part over territory never before crossed by a white man, much less by a white woman. This journey, made through forest, swamp, and river,—afoot, and also alone, save only for a few natives, and these mostly cannibals,—certainly marks Miss Kingsley as the most plucky of womankind. Even in the haunts of gorillas and cannibals, she is quite undismayed. One night, in a cannibal's hut, she awoke and noticed a suspicious

"Knocking the ash-end off the smouldering bush-light that lay burning on the floor, I investigated, and tracked it to those bags, so I took down the biggest one, and carefully noted how the tie had been put around its mouth; for these things are important and often mean a lot. I then shook its contents out in my hat, for fear of losing anything of value. They were a human hand, three big toes, four eyes, two ears, and other portions of the human frame. The hand was fresh, the others only so so, and shrivelled. Replacing them, I tied the bag up, and hung it up again. I subsequently learnt that although the Fans will eat their fellow friendly tribesfolk, yet they like to keep a little something belonging to them as a memento. This touching trait in their character I learnt from Wiki; and, though it's to their credit, under the circumstances, still it's an unpleasant practice when they hang the remains in the bedroom you occupy, particularly if the bereavement in your host's family has been recent."

Miss Kingsley is rather condemnatory of missionaries, though she looks upon the Mission Evangélique with much favor. West African traders she regards as an unjustly abused class. She speaks very highly of the administration of Congo Français, and regards M. de Brazza as "the greatest of all West African explorers." She also has a good word to say for the much impugned veracity of Du Chaillu.

Though Miss Kingsley, as befits a niece of Charles Kingsley, shares in his interest in natural phenomena, she is far from possessing his aptitude for literary style. She fairly blurts out her remarks in the most abrupt and desperate fashion; and the book is further marred by coarse flippancy and jocular smartness of a low masculine type. However, she is always

^{*}TRAVELS IN WEST AFRICA. Congo, Français, Corisco, and Cameroons. By Mary H. Kingsley. New York: The Macmillan Co.

terse and vigorous, and by pure good luck sometimes attains for a few sentences to a really good descriptive style.

On the whole, notwithstanding that some of the earlier and later chapters are "padding," this work impresses us as a strong, original, veracious, and important book, and we trust that Miss Kingsley will publish further results of her studies of the West African man and his country. The illustrations are good, and the appendices are valuable; but we regret the absence of a map. HIRAM M. STANLEY.

THE ORBIT OF FAITH.*

If we put "The Ambassador of Christ," by Car-dinal Gibbons, at the perigee in the revolution of religious belief as nearest in its own feeling to the Eternal Centre, and "Guesses at the Riddle of Existence," by Goldwin Smith, at the apogee as farthest off, we see how vast and how eccentric the orbit of faith has become. Here, the light and heat so stream in as to bathe the spirit and become the one productive power of the world; there they dwindle and fade till they are no more than the insensible beams of a remote star, caught sight of at rare intervals in the shifty night. We are traversing immense spaces, seeking anew the constructive forces of creation.

The work of Cardinal Gibbons cannot fail to impress the earnest spirit with its simplicity, directness, and devotion. We can easily believe that the hope of the author will be fulfilled, and that it will animate the clergy with renewed ardor in the cultivation of piety and science. There is a very appreciative recognition in the preface of the genius of American institutions, and of the American people. This is the more observable, because we have just been suffering from one of those blind flurries of popular hatred to Popery which have so long been indigenous in the English race. The volume is rich in the current coin of piety which has been in interchange for thousands of years between the wisest and the best of men. It is rather an earnest and reiterative enforcement of truth, sincerity, charity, chastity, diligence, knowledge, than any new and

*THE AMBASSADOR OF CHRIST. By James Cardinal Gib-bons. Baltimore: John Murphy & Co. THE CHURCH AND MODERN SOCIETY. By the Most Reverend John Ireland, Archbishop of St. Paul. Chicago: D. H. McBride & Co.

CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY AND THEISM. By R. M. Wenley. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

IMMORTALITY AND THE NEW THEODICY. By George A. Gordon. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Guesses at the Riddle of Existence. By Goldwin Smith, D.C.L. New York: The Macmillan Co.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF LIFE. By H. J. Harald. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

THE SHADOW CHRIST. By Gerald Stanley Lee. New York: The Century Co.

logical development of them. It is, and was intended to be, a book of practical persuasive power. This much must be conceded in recognition of its noble We are compelled, however, as one well outside of its ecclesiastical atmosphere, to feel that this most friendly voice of admonition comes from a period and a method well behind us. It fails to recognize fully either the peculiar strain of our time or its peculiar inspiration. It is as if a son who had endured strange temptations, and caught unusual glimpses of truth, should return to the home of his childhood and hear once more from the lips of his venerable father the well-worn precepts of his youth. He might listen to them reverently and profitably, and yet feel that they did not probe his soul to the bottom.

Archbishop Ireland has been for a long time one of those who have helped us to associate an earnest public spirit with high ecclesiastical position. It is a rare combination. The present volume, "The Church and Modern Society," is, as the title implies, an expression of this interest. Most of the addresses which compose it turn, directly or indirectly, on the duties of the Church and State in reference to each other. "For the sake of the world, the Church must be in close contact with life, and must face the living issues of the day." This is the underlying sentiment of the entire volume. It finds full and forceful expression in the address entitled "The Church and the Age," delivered in Baltimore at an anniversary of the episcopal consecration of Cardinal Gibbons. It was spoken to a large representative assembly of Catholic clergy, and is full of the fire of profound conviction. The style is clear and direct, and charged everywhere with the ruling idea. Such simplicity and dignity of purpose and such moral force are sure to carry his words to the hearts of men. He apologizes for not treating the labor movement in this volume. He felt it to be too large a subject for the space he could assign it. Leo XIII. receives ardent commendation for his sympathy with social development. There is an outspoken address on "Intemperance and Law, and an equally direct paper on "The Church and the Saloon." Archbishop Ireland, in two addresses, defines the attitude of the Church in reference to our public-school system. It is an attitude in no way hostile. The Church wholly concurs with the publicschool system of the United States. It is simply not willing to yield the right of religious instruction. The Archbishop claims, what has long seemed to us undeniable justice, that the public should discriminate between secular and religious education; should support the one and tolerate the other. This is a moral elevation to which the American people have not yet attained. The addresses are replete with patriotism; and if the reader wishes to meet a strong mind fired with large and generous purposes, he will find it in this volume.

"Contemporary Theology and Theism," by Prof. R. M. Wenley, is a work of unusual power. It handles the deepest religious themes with insight

and large suggestion. The intuitive line of thought prevails. Those who remember Professor Morris with affection will rejoice that Professor Wenley is associated with the University of Michigan. The book is made up of three parts. The first part considers historically and critically what the author terms the "Speculative Theology" of the present,the theology that rests back on the powerful rendering of history and theology by Hegel - the most vigorous remedy that has ever been administered to the ill-digestion of pure empiricism. The author finds that this movement, while disappearing in its formal elements, has left a large remainder of insight. The second part is occupied with Ritschlian theology. This has arisen in antagonism both to the extreme empirical and extreme speculative tendency. Christ is considered in his character and teachings simply as an ethical, spiritual force. His words are of supreme moment to men because of the hold they have on men's thoughts. Here are undoubted inner phenomena, not to be surpassed in their actual power over human life. Feeling and accepting these words of truth, we are made superior to scientific, historical, and speculative criticism. We have our own facts of their own order. The criticism of the author at this point seems to us a little severe. We may accept this attitude of Ritschl as at least a provisional one. The third part of this work takes up more independently the "Theistic Problem." It undertakes, at the same time, a philosophical and a religious construction of the world. It affirms that theology brings to the problem of being terms that may, indeed, make it more complex, but also make it more intelligible. All deep questions are answered together, or not well answered. We commend the volume to lovers of philosophical religious thought.

"Immortality and the New Theodicy," like the previous volume, grew out of a lecture. In this case, the lecture was given in Harvard University under the Ingersoll bequest. In the former case, the address was given to the Glasgow University Theological Society. The effort is "to carry the question of the immortality of man to the moral conception of the universe for determination." The ardent spiritual temperament of Dr. Gordon fits him to affirm the force and integrity of the moral idea. "When it is the sword of the spirit by which a man seeks to live, he should ask no happier fate than to die by it." There is a noble enthusiasm pervading the words of Dr. Gordon. To us, at least, they seem to arise from a true insight into the spiritual rela-tions of the world. The doctrine of immortality is so dependent on our sense of the inner character of the world that we cannot handle it, any more than we can handle a point of methetical criticism, aside from the feelings involved in it. "The three grand positions from which faith in a hereafter for man would seem to follow are the moral perfection of the Creator, the reasonableness of the universe, and the worth of human life. The three are at heart one; for if the first is true, if God is absolutely good, the other two must follow" (page 46). "A universe that defeats his best life, that contradicts his deepest thought, cannot be considered by man at least as the expression of Supreme Reason" (page 57). "The appeal in behalf of the permanence of man is ultimately away from all matters of physical organization, to the heart of the universe, to the Absolute conscience and pity that are believed to have dominion over all things" (page 59). Immortality resolves itself into faith, and faith resolves itself into the force of our spiritual powers. The volume is full of inspiration to the concurrent mind.

Mr. Goldwin Smith's "Guesses at the Riddle of Existence" is made up of five essays. The first essay gives the title to the book. The remaining four are: "The Church and the Old Testament "Is There Another Life?" "The Miraculous Element in Christianity," "Morality and Theism." The astute, incisive character of the author's literary work is too well known to call for any comment. The first essay is a criticism on Professor Drummond, Mr. Kidd, and Mr. Balfour. Much of it is telling and true. While, however, we do not complain of the temper of the book as especially faulty, we cannot think it of the best. Destructive criticism is not often either wholly kindly or just. One cannot trim a tree without knowing equally well what is to be retained and what is to be cut away. The bull that worries and tears an evergreen shrub with its horns is not trimming it. Mr. Smith fulfils his purpose in breaking down and pulling to pieces. He feels no disposition to save and restore. This is not making one's work a part of the constructive labor of humanity. Why should one paint again the picture of life, as in the article on immor-ality, in all its darkest colors, simply because he has a trick of hand in these dismal, distressing shades? The plea of truth hardly avails. It is not true to analyze out and heap up the evil of the world, and offer it as the world. It is not the world; it is only its distressful, distorted shadow. It is both stale criticism and shallow criticism to decry the philosophy of the world. Most of the subsoiling of the human mind has been done, and is still done, in this very region of philosophy — metaphysics, if you will. Mr. Smith assumes as accepted truth what is not accepted, and is at best only a metaphysical rendering of facts. "We know . . . that what he calls the soul is but the higher and finer activity of our general frame." If Mr. Smith knows that, he might certainly have saved himself the labor of casting up again the doubts of immortality. Mr. Smith treats unfairly the enthusiasm of Professor Drummond. The love of the mother for her child is altruistic, though not a very pure example of altruism. There is in it natural affection, but there is also the germ of spiritual affection. Altruism is not, as Mr. Smith seems to imply, doing good to others with no reference to ourselves; it is finding our highest pleasure in doing good to others. It is enclosing others in the tissue of our spiritual lives. There is, in the way that many have of casting, in the name of science, dark shadows on the world, great exaggeration. These persons stand between the light and the world, and then draw attention to the gloom they have occasioned. A highly organized being, full of intense and morbid feelings, physical and intellectual, reads his own degrees and moods of suffering into the world, and then pronounces upon it. The world is to be rendered from its own centre as a happy-go-lucky product, and so rendered is far more enjoyable than the sharp critic of good, and the diligent delineator of evil. make it out to be.

"The Knowledge of Life," by Mr. H. J. Harald, stands for the speculations of a single person. Objectionable as the dogmatism of the believer may be, it is not as objectionable as the dogmatism of the unbeliever. The first is consistent with its own principles, and is supported by more or less concurrent belief. The second is scornful of belief, and yet has nothing but the belief of one person to offer in its place. It is as if a man should deny the existence of any road, and yet claim that his own halfeffaced tracks across a waste of drifting snows was the king's highway. "Great religions have taken their rise in this mystery—the mystery of life professing to expound it; but despite all, we are little if any nearer the solution to-day." Now, under these trying circumstances, our author buckles on his armor-better, slips on his snow-shoes, -and takes the lead. Religion is the aim of life; the aim of life is evolution. Immortality is the continuity of evolution. The amoba has his religion, though of a somewhat attenuated order. "Religion may be called the hand-rail to the path of life," to life as a sensuous experience. "The God of every man is the spirit within him." To this, his prayers are addressed. As the expression of a shallow, empirical self-confidence, this volume is rarely surpassed. It is impossible to elaborate anything which we are content to call religion out of simple quasi-mechanical evolution. Mr. Herbert Spencer has given us such a prodigious volume of philosophy, in which facts looked on as necessary are made the causes of themselves, that he puts everyone who follows him in the same field to disadvantage. Yet, if anyone has a curiosity to see sunbeams extracted from encumbers, this is the book which will interest him. The style is perspicuous, and the volume admirable in form. A slight redemptive touch is found in the discussion of the true position of woman.

"The Shadow Christ" is a prose poem of much delicacy of feeling and scope of thought. It should be read, as it was written, with snatches of insight. Its motive seems to be that religion must be interpreted from within; that, like every phase of life, it must be grasped as a mastery of its own condition. We cannot render the faith of the world reflectively, across long periods, with no sense of the instant, urgent problem involved in it. Religion is ever an incarnation, "An empty Bible, in an empty universe, in an empty life,—to him who dares to read a Bible by itself." It is refreshing, after the somewhat weary, speculative road we have just

traveled, to reach this unhesitating phase of faith, to which all skepticism is the melancholy moan of a dying year. The spirit of the author is an seolian harp which needs only the winds. What matters it that this or that harpist is ailing or is gone, the music of the world is still in it. It is to this we listen.

John Bascom.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

A book on the theory of Beauty may The theory of Beauty. be a treatise in psychology with Sully, in psycho-physics with Fechner, in physiology with Grant Allen, in metaphysics with Hegel, in history with Taine, - from the title, you can never guess what kind of a book it is going to be. Of one thing, however, the general reader may usually feel assured, - namely, that it will not be interesting, nor even such as he can comprehend. To this latter rule there have been notable exceptions; and Mr. George Santayana has added a new one to the worthy few by his book on "The Sense of Beauty" (Scribner). For a technical treatise we think the book singularly well adapted to general reading. The style is easy, the exposition clear, the illustration effective. A technical treatise it is; but we think that many beside psychologists and students of scientific resthetics will be interested in it. It is an example of the best form of popular science: the statement by a student of matters special to his particular studies, in terms and in form such that anyone who is really interested in the matter can readily comprehend it. No book on sesthetics can be really light reading; and this book is not, though it comes even dangerously near it. One would infer from the title that the standpoint is sychological; and, indeed, the author says as much. It is, however, not rigidly psychological, according to our idea: it certainly tends rather to the speculative than to the psycho-physical. To our minds, the chief value of Mr. Santayana's book lies in his definition of Beauty and in his discussion of Form. We do not find any very satisfactory solution of the problem of the origin of beauty, although the author seems to regard it as necessary to his treatment (p. 5). Nor do we find anything with which we can rest satisfied as a criterion of degree (p. 130). These are two important æsthetic problems, and we do not find that Mr. Santayana says very much that helps us. On the points noted above, however, we think him excellent: his discrimination between asthetics and ethics, between asthetics again and hedonics, the methetic differentia, his final definition,-all these we regard as admirable. The idea of the definition itself we have met with before; but the development of idea in reaching it seems to us a considerable achievement. We also admire Mr. Santayana's dealings with Form. Without feeling that the last word has been said, we do feel that a number of things have been made clearer. We like also some of the results, — indeed, are influenced, perhaps, in our judgment of the theory by the neatness of some of the explanations. This we confess is unscientific,—and yet we could not help a thrill of conclusiveness at Mr. Santayana's explanation of the preference of our time for suggestion over form (p. 96) or of the superadded charm of associated expressiveness, which is so common nowadays (p. 85), a feeling which was, we fear, more realized than our assent to the progress of his argument. The book is one which the specialist will study carefully, and from which anybody may carry away much.

Doctor Johnson, while listening to "Monologues of a Homeless Snail." some music that rather bored him. was assured that the piece was inordinately difficult: he wished it had been impossible. Such will be the harsh judgment of some concerning Yone Noguchi's "Seen and Unseen" (Gelett Burgess and Porter Garnett); but from such inhospi-tality we hasten to dissent. True, we do not agree with Mr. Gelett Burgess, who thinks that this young Japanese "has discovered fresh beauties and unexeted charms in our speech." But then, Mr. Gelett Burgess is known to be a consummate wag: we almost believe that he has written these poems himself, to rival Mrs. Browning and Prosper Mérimée. We do see fresh beauties and charms certainly unexpected in these poems, but they are such as we perceive in any broken English in the mouth of a pretty woman or a clever man. Nor do we think that Yone Noguchi has "honoured our tongue by his writings ": in this view of his, Mr. Gelett Burgess shows himself inappreciative of those things which really are the honor and glory of the English language. Nothing is gained by taking the matter too seriously; it is needless to affirm that Noguchi is the greatest poet since Maeterlinck. Let us be content with the actual facts; he has written some reveries full of delicate wanderings of sentiment, of charming vagaries of the imagination. As such we think his poems will surely give pleasure to many; we think that not a few will turn in sympathetic affection to "The Homeless Snail" whose attractive face appears on his frontispiece. We have here the simple and naive utterances of one whose mind works in a manner quite strange to our ordinary modes of thought; and that is something that many will appreciate. We have also many quaint and delicate flowers of a fancy quite different from our fancy; that also has its charm. To find really great thought or really beautiful expression would, to say the least, require determination or profound study. We ourselves think the work particularly interesting, because, without having in any way the spirit of Walt Whitman, it has to a great extent ossessed itself of his form: not simply the rhymeless, unrhythmical line, but the less obvious points, - the exclamation and apostrophe, the anaphora and repetition, the absolute constructions and the parentheses, the neologisms, and so on. And this is interesting because it shows, to some extent, the capabilities of that form as a form. But we did not mean to make a new poet the subject of a technical disquisition; that shows a pedantic and doctrinaire spirit that should be far from one who is fortunate enough to have to do with a new poet. We find the quality of Yone Noguchi pleasing, and we wish he did not feel so terribly lonely.

The forty-sixth volume of the "Story of the Nations" series (Putnam), neighbors. with its beautiful illustrations, is the most interesting of all to the American reader, since it tells a tale of our own times and of our most closely connected neighbor. The story-teller is Mr. J. G. Bourinot, Clerk of the Canadian House of Commons, and pleasantly known by his partici-pation in our societies of learning and his cooperation in the different plans of research and bibliography in the two countries from time to time. The task of condensing four centuries —"from the day the Breton sailor ascended the St. Lawrence to Hochelaga, until the formation of the Confederation which united the people of two distinct nationalities"-into less than four hundred pages must appear peculiarly formidable to so intensive a student and so minute an investigator. Yet the work has been most skilfully done, and the last hundred pages have thus been reserved for modern Canada - the part of the book to which the American reader will turn first, to ascertain the views of so authoritative a writer upon the future of Canada and her relations to the United States. Of the Canadian future, Mr. Bourinot is justly sanguine. "All classes now agree as to preserving the federal system in its entirety, since it ensures better than any other system of government the rights and interests of the French Canadian population. . . . No French Canadian writer or politician of weight now urges so impossible or suicidal a scheme as the foundation of an independent French nationality on the banks of the St. Lawrence." In common with later Canadian writers, Mr. Bourinot laments the indifference to colonial interests which England displayed in adjusting her southern boundary line. By "the persistency of American statesmen," "the State of Maine now presses like a huge wedge into the provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec, and a Canadian railway is obliged to pass over American territory, which many Canadians still believe ought to be a part of the Canadian Dominion." Likewise the author does not fail to contrast "how honourably her [Canada's government discharged its duties of a neutral between the belligerents" in our Civil War, and how at the time of the Fenian raids the United States authorities calmly looked on while all the preparations for these raids were in progress; how the President discontinued the prosecutions on request of the House of Representatives; and "for all the losses Canada sustained through these invasions of her territory, she has never received any compensa-tion whatever." Truly, these last hundred pages make interesting reading for those American state

men who are wont to picture the Dominion sitting out in the cold and piteously begging to be allowed a humble seat by the Yankee fireside.

The name of Severn Teackle Wallis is an unfamiliar one to readers of our author of Baltimore. day, though known to the last generation as that of an eminent lawyer, an able public speaker, and a graceful writer of both verse and prose. Mr. Wallis was educated at Baltimore, and there entered on the practice of his profession, and soon was highly esteemed for his ability, integrity, public spirit, and scholarly attainments. The most noticeable incident in his life was his arrest among the "Maryland suspects" in 1861, and his imprisonment for more than a year as a Southern sympathizer. He died in Baltimore in 1894, at an advanced age. Soon after his death, some of his friends formed the Wallis Memorial Association; and through the efforts of this association a handsome library edition of Mr. Wallis's selected works, in four well printed volumes, has appeared with the imprint of Messrs. John Murphy & Co., Baltimore. The first volume includes several addresses which well exhibit Mr. Wallis's oratorical powers; perhaps the most impressive of these is the discourse on the life and character of George Peabody. This volume includes also the author's poems, which show taste and scholarship; one of them is the stirring lyric of "The Guerrillas" (beginning "Awake and to horse, my brothers"), which is not unknown to collectors of the poetry of the Civil War. The second volume consists of miscellaneous reviews and political documents, and the third is a reprint of "Glimpses of Spain," which was first published by Mesers. Harper & Brothers in 1849. Mr. Wallis had early become a proficient in Spanish literature and history, and in 1847, being in ill health, he made a journey through Spain, and later published this modest volume. It contains much just and careful description which would answer almost as well for the Spain of to-day as that of a half-century ago, written in a mild and genial vein, somewhat in the manner of Washington Irving. The fourth volume is the result of a second visit to Spain, in 1849, made at the instance of the Secretary of the Interior, with the object of studying certain Spanish grants which had reference to Florida lands. This was originally published under the title, "Spain, Her Institutions, Politics, and Public Men," and is a reliable summary of the Spain of that time. While these volumes chiefly appeal to the people of Baltimore and Maryland, yet they have a general inter-est and value which entitles them at least to a place in our larger libraries.

After a considerable delay, although

*Political Economy.** not an unreasonable one when we consider the magnitude of the undertaking, the publishers of Professor Palgrave's "Dictionary of Political Economy" (Macmillan) have put forth the second volume of that valuable work.

It will be remembered that the first volume was published in parts, but this feature of the plan was abandoned upon the completion of that volume, and we now get all at once the 848 pages that take us from F to M inclusive. A third volume will com-plete the work. It is difficult to do justice in a few words to this much-needed and admirably-planned "Dictionary." The bulk of the matter is enormous. and the art of condensation has been so skilfully exercised as to produce a work of reference in the best sense. Both the historical and the theoretical aspects of economic science are fully presented, and we note with peculiar satisfaction the justice done by the editor to the various Continental schools, past and present, of economic thought. A rather minute subdivision of subject-matter, resulting in many short articles rather than in a few elaborate essays, has been an essential feature of the editor's plan, and the work is thus differentiated from the "Cyclopedia" of Mr. Lalor, in which it often takes much time and patience to run down a desired fact. There are, of course, some elaborate articles, such as Finances (20 pages), and Insurance (14 pages), but the average is about half a page. The articles are written by a great number of scholars, European and American, and are all signed. This makes inevitable a certain unevenness, which, however, the skill of the editor has done much to smooth away. Still, as he says of the articles: "Some are the labours of practised scholars with a perfect command of the vocabulary they employ, enforcing the broad views which wider experience enables them to express," while "others have been the jottings down of hard-working but comparatively uneducated men, full of practical common sense and of shrewd observation, but sometimes exhibiting a deficiency in dialectic skill which prevents them from setting forth the truths they desire to inculcate to fullest advantage." All students of economics will join in congratulating Professor Palgrave upon his twothirds completed work, and be impatient for the time when they may place the final volume with the two others upon their shelves.

The Elizabethan Age is as fertile a field for the historian as for the student of literature. Major Hume, in "The Year after the Armada, and Other Historical Studies" (Macmillan), has brought together a number of essays dwelling upon this time of knight and naval hero. Most of these essays deal with the history of the Armada. But in reading them, if one would get the continuity of the story he should read them in reverse order. As arranged, the reader embarks at once with the "Counter Armada of 1589"—an English attempt to capture Lisbon. The conflicting policies and the intricate problems of European polities revolving mainly around England, France, and Spain, with accessory complications caused by the Reformation in France, Scotland, and the Netherlands; the gradual widening of the breach with Spain; the rising religious and national sense of the

English; the work of the privateers; the open rupture with Spain in 1584, and the grand sea struggle of 1588, are told in the articles upon "The Coming of Philip the Prudent" and "The Evolution of the Armada." Perhaps nothing in the whole course of the book will arrest the reader's attention more than the author's estimate of Philip II., not "a murderous ogre, guiltily and silently plotting the enslavement of England for thirty years before the great catas-trophe which reduced his vast Empire to the rank of a harmless second-rate power," but "a laborious, narrow-minded, morbidly conscientious man, patient, distrustful, and timid; a sincere lover of eace and hater of all sorts of innovations." Hume's ability in character-sketching is remarkable. The descriptions of Charles II. and of Philip IV., those queer sprigs of the House of Hapsburg, are further examples. And when Mr. Hume quits the sea and takes to land with "Julian Romero, Swashbuckler," or with "Richard Bere," sometime English gentleman and adventurer in petty scrapes, he is no less entertaining. Indeed, for a healthy and wholesome book, tingling with the old-English spirit, smelling of the salt-sea air, and as entertaining as Smollett, we commend the pages of "The Year after the Armada."

"The True Life of Captain Sir Rich-The new Life of Captain Burton. ard Burton" (Appleton), by his niece, Georgiana M. Stisted, is a compact, popularly-written book that affords a very satisfactory general view of the unique career of the great explorer and Arabist. The dryest pen could scarcely make a dull tale of the life of Sir Richard Burton; and Miss Stisted writes crisply, graphically, and to the point. Her description of Burton's remarkable pilgrimage to Mecca and El-Medinah is especially good, and she does fair justice to the African and South American journeys, the tour in the States, and so on. The opening chapters, detailing Burton's somewhat erratic and unpromising early career, are extremely readable. Miss Stisted goes a little out of her way, as we think, to air some unpleasant family secrets, and her strictures on Lady Burton seem rather illiberal—one might almost say spiteful. Lady Burton was a Romanist, and naturally made some attempts to divert her husband from paths which she doubtless believed led to perdition and eternal torments of a very material and humanly realizable kind. The poor lady's frantic efforts, when Burton was on his death-bed, to effect a tardy conversion, and her despairing petition to the priest to administer Extreme Unction even when the body lay cold and stark, and, to the calmer eye, plainly inanimate (there might, she thought, be a lingering spark of life to sustain the saving efficacy of the sacrament), are ascribed by the author to a Jesuitical desire on the part of Lady Burton "of glorifying her church." Perhaps had the author made a little kindly effort to attain to Lady Burton's point of view, her closing chapter would have had a more charitable ring. The book contains a striking

portrait of Burton, showing a strong, rugged head, surmounting the massive neck of an athlete. There is an appended list of his works, and the lack of an index is partially supplied by a copious table of contents.

The series of papers embraced in the little volume entitled "Adeline, Countess Schimmelmann" (Dodd, Mead & Co.) present a fairly complete picture of the life of a remarkable and, to our thinking, somewhat erratic lady whose name, we learn, is "a house-hold word" in Germany and Scandinavia. Countess Schimmelmann's story is indeed a singular one, and not lacking in the essentials of melodrama. The papers, which, with one exception, are from the pen of the Countess herself, contain, in the editor's rather question-begging phrase, "the record of her offense against conventional custom, in forsaking the brilliant circles of fashion for obscure toil among neglected fishermen, and in attempting the task, so often deemed impracticable, of living in literal obedience to the precepts of Christ." Stated otherwise, Countess Schimmelmann's tale is that of a Danish lady of rank whose natural pietism, early manifested in good works and a reasonable degree of selfabnegation, resulted eventually in a form of religious and humanitarian monomania that threatened her own impoverishment, produced divers eccentricities of conduct and opinion, and so scandalized her relatives that they confined her in a private asylum for the insane, whence she was released through parliamentary interference. We do not venture to pronounce upon the merits of Countess Schimmelmann's case - which has attained the dignity of a cause célèbre in her own country, and of which her own side only is stated in the present volume; but it must be apparent to the practical mind that "obe-dience to the precepts of Christ" may very conceiv-ably be carried to a literal and suicidal degree warranting the intervention of friends and relatives and the issuance of a writ de lunatico. To literally pluck out and cast away an offending right eye, for instance, is not a commendable deed, nor one compatible with the sanity of the doer. The volume contains some fairly interesting passages relating to the author's life at the court of Berlin, to her Baltic missions, to her experiences with Berlin socialists and anarchists, and to what she terms her "persecu-tion and prison." There are two portraits of Countess Schimmelmann.

Mr. Frank S. Child's "The Colonial Parson of New England" (The Baker & Taylor Co.) is generally similar in matter and treatment to the books of Mrs. Alice Morse Earle, who has worked with such happy results in this Colonial field. Mr. Child has gleaned pretty freely from Mrs. Earle, Colonel Higginson, and Mr. Bliss, and claims to have gone to some extent to original sources. His book is pleasantly written, and affords some amusing and instructive glimpses of Colonial parsons in general (omit-

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the tice for product of all T

ting, we note, that choice specimen of the cloth, the "Maryland Parson"), as well as parsons specific—the parson political, the parson agricultural, the parson as a scholar, a preacher, an ancestor, and so forth. A chapter on "The Parson's Ordination" is calculated to dispel most effectually a not uncommon delusion that the New England Puritan was ascetic in the matter of strong drink. Here, e. g., is a bill for an ordination in 1785 : - "30 Bowles of Punch before the People went to Meeting; 44 Bowles of Punch at dinner; 18 Bottles of Wine; 8 Bowles of Brandy; Cherry Rum" (quantity not mentioned). It cost the taxpayers of Woburn (1729), to launch the Rev. Edwin Jackson on his clerical career, six and one-half barrels of cider, twenty-five gallons of wine, two gallons of brandy, four gallons of rum; while the diary of one Thomas Smith, describing the ordination of the Rev. Samuel Foxeroft at New Gloucester, concludes: "We had a pleasant journey home. . . . A jolly ordination. We lost sight of decorum." To properly "raise" a meeting-house, an incredible amount of strong liquor was required — almost enough to float the edifice when raised. Mr. Child's book is a capital one of its kind.

In these days when a comparatively The training of oriminals. few citizens, ashamed of the past treatment of dependent and perverted children, are seeking to improve our laws and institutions, Mr. W. D. Morrison's book on "Juvenile Offenders" (Appleton) appears to be timely and valuable. It is a book which should be read by every resident of Chicago and every other city whose great and growing "dangerous classes" are being trained to crime in sweatshops, stores, factories, jail, and bridewell. The only form of compulsory education we have in Illinois is given where the associations are such as to minify the best influences of superintendents. Few men in the world are so well equipped for writing a book on this subject as the talented and gracious chaplain of Wordsworth Prison, London. The fact that the book was written on English soil does not make it less valuable for American students, because the principles of social treatment are essentially the same for all countries, and because the author has made himself acquainted with the methods of our institutions in the United States.

BRIEFER MENTION.

Miss Eckenstein's "Women Under Monasticism" (Macmillan) is a good contribution to culture-history, within limits which are not expressed in the title. The subject has to deal almost entirely with convent life in England in the Middle Ages. The author brings to bear upon her work sympathy, training, and industry. There is not a little irony in the paragraph upon the political influence of an abbess, because of the unconscious reflection upon a Madame du Barry or Pompadour: "The career open to the inmates of convents, both in England

and on the continent, was greater than any other ever thrown open to women in the course of modern history. Abilities might raise the nun to the rank of abbess, a position of substantial authority. In a Kentish charter, the names of the abbesses as representatives of religion follow those of the bishops."

Volumes 7 and 8 of the uniform subscription edition of Mr. Barrie's writings have just been published by the Messrs. Scribner, and the set is now complete. The closing volume brings "My Lady Nicotine" and "Margaret Ogilvy" within one pair of covers—a rather incongruous association, it must be admitted. The volumes are exceedingly attractive in form, and the set makes a worthy companion for the Field and Stevenson sets for which we are indebted to the enterprise of the same publishers.

Volumes 3 and 4 of "American Orations," completing the set, have just been published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons. This work, it will be remembered, was first edited by Alexander Johnston, and, in its present revised form, is due to the scholarly labors of Professor James A. Woodburn. Volume 3 continues the subject of the anti-slavery struggle down to the actual secession of the Southern States; Volume 4 deals with reconstruction, free trade and protection, finance, and the reform of the civil service.

Mr. Herbert Small's "Handbook of the New Library of Congress" (Curtis & Cameron) is an attractive and timely pamphlet. In addition to Mr. Small's detailed description of the new building, there is an essay on the "Architecture, Sculpture, and Painting" of the Library, by Mr. Charles Caffin, and a paper on "The Function of a National Library," by Mr. A. R. Spofford. The pamphlet is well provided with illustrations, and will be a welcome guide to the many visitors with whom the capital is througed during this eventful month.

We need not characterize the comely volume entitled "Undercurrents of the Second Empire" (Putnam) further than to say that it is a liberal aftermath of Paris gossip reaped from the seemingly exhaustless memory of Mr. Albert E. Vandam, author of "An Englishman in Paris." So far as we can see, Mr. Vandam's pen shows no signs of flagging. No man certainly ever had a better memory for trifles; and readers whose appetites are not already dulled by his well-seasoned plats should find his latest book quite as entertaining as his first one.

Messrs. Longmans, Green, & Co. issue a volume of essays by George John Romanes, edited by Principal Lloyd, of Bristol, England. The essays, ten in number, are reprinted from "The Nineteenth Century" and similar periodicals. With a few exceptions they discuss corollaries to the main propositions of natural selection and the survival of the fittest, as applied to the development of instinct and reason in man and animals. They illustrate the versatility of thought and the breadth of view of this well-known supporter of Darwin.

Professor Herbert A. Howe's "Elements of Descriptive Astronomy" (Silver, Burdett & Co.) is a text-book for high-school use. It is attractively printed, and illustrated far more handsomely than such text-books are wont to be, but its study can hardly have the disciplinary results to be obtained from such a book as Professor Young's, for example. The author seems all the time to be afraid of expecting too much mathematics or physics from his students; in other words, he aims to make astronomy as easy as possible, which is not exactly the aim that such a text should have in view.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SPRING BOOKS.

THE DIAL takes pleasure in presenting to its readers the annual list of books announced for Spring publica-tion, and believes it will be found as comprehensive and tion, and believes it will be found as comprehensive and full of interest to book-buyers of all classes as any yet prepared for these columns. The list contains about 500 titles, from 41 publishers, an average of an even dozen of books to each firm — which is certainly an en-couraging showing for the American publishing trade after the recent period of general financial depression. The list does not contain books already issued and entered in our regular book-list.

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& Co.)

New Light on the Early History of the Greater North West, being the journals of Alexander Henry, partner of the Northwest Company, collated with the unpublished MSS. of David Thompson, explorer and geographer of the Northwest Company, edited by Dr. Elliott Cones, 3 vols., with maps, \$10. (Francis P. Harper.)

Cromwell's Place in History, founded on six lectures delivered at Oxford, by S. R. Gardiner, D.C.L. (Longmans, Green, & Co.)

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Thomas's New Medical Dictionary, prepared on the basis of "Thomas's Complete Medical Dictionary," by Ryland W. Greene, B.A., with editorial collaboration of John Ashhurst, Jr., M.D., George A. Piersol, M.D., and Joseph P. Remington, Ph.M.—A Text-Book of Genito-Urinary Surgery and Venereal Diseases, for physicians and students, by J. William White, M.D., and Edward Martin, M.D., illus.—A Manual of Legal Medicine, for use of practitioners and students of medicine and law, by Justin Herold, A.M.—The Origin of Disease, by Arthur V. Meigs, M.D.—The Roller Bandage and Surgical Dressing, by William Barton Hopkins, M.D., new edition, illus. (J. B. Lippincott Co.) The Liver of Dyseptics and particularly the Circhosis produced by Auto-Intoxication of Gastro-Intestinal Origin, by Dr. Emile Boix. authorized translation by Paul Richard Brown, M.D.—Hypnotism and its Application to Practical Medicine, by Otto Georg Wetterstrand, authorized translation by Henrik G. Peterson, M.D. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.) A Book for Every Woman; Part II.: Woman in Health and out of Health, by Jane H. Walker, L.R.C.P.I., \$1. (Longmans, Green, & Co.)

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The English Dialect Dictionary, being the complete vocabulary of all dialect words in use during the last two hundred years, edited by Joseph Wright, M.A., in 16 parts, per part, \$3.75. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

A Student's Dictionary of Anglo-Saxon, by Dr. Henry Sweet, M.A., \$1.75. (Macmillan Co.)

The Sale Prices of 1896, a record of the prices at which pictures, drawings, manuscripts, autographs, relics, coins, prints, pottery, plate, etc., have been sold at auction in London during 1896, edited by J. H. Slater. (Francis P. Harper.)

The Manufacturers' Practical Up-to-Date Recipe Book, containing nearly 3000 recipes, by Lewis Jameson, \$1.50. (Ward, Lock & Co.)

GAMES AND SPORTS.

Fish Tails — and Some True Ones, by Bradnock Hall, illus., \$2.—The Sportsman in Ireland, by a Cosmopolite, illus. in colors, etc., "Sportsman's Library," \$4. (Edward Arnold.) "Ont-of-Door Library," new vols.: Track and Field, and Mountain Climbing, each illus., \$1.50. (Charles Scribner's Score

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Early Long Island Wills, with genealogical notes by William S. Pelletreau, limited edition. (Francis P. Harper.)

The Non-religion of the Future, by J. M. Guyau. (Henry Holt & Co.)

Stray Thoughts for Mothers and Teachers, by Leav H. M.

Stray Thoughts for Mothers and Teachers, by Lucy H. M. Soulsby. (Longmans, Green, & Co.)

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LITERARY NOTES.

Messrs. D. Appleton & Co. have become incorporated, although the name of the house will remain the same as heretofore.

"Isaiah," edited by Mr. R. G. Moulton, is the latest volume of "The Modern Reader's Bible," published by the Macmillan Co.

The life of Tennyson, by Lord Hallam Tennyson, is now in the press, and will be published in October by the Macmillan Co.

The Rev. Henry Van Dyke's first volume of verse, "The Builders, and Other Poems," will soon be issued by the Messrs. Scribner.

"Arden of Feversham," edited by the Rev. Ronald Bayne, has been added to the "Temple Dramatists," published by the Macmillan Co.

Mesers. Lyon & Healy, Chicago, have just issued a prettily printed book of 272 pages about "Old Violins," which should interest violinists everywhere.

Mr. J. G. Bartholomew's "Pocket Atlas of the World" is now published in its tenth edition, rewritten and much extended, by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Herr Björnson's "Magnhild" and "Dust" are combined to form the sixth volume of the new edition of the great Norwegian in course of publication by the Macmillan Co.

The Doubleday & McClure Co., a new publishing house, will begin active operations in New York next autumn. Mr. A. F. Jaccaci has become art editor of "McClure's Magazine."

Part IX. of Professor M. Jastrow's "Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the Midrashie Literature" has just been published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Mr. Richard Henry Stoddard, the veteran poet and literary critic, is to receive the well-deserved tribute of a complimentary dinner from the Authors Club, in New York, on the evening of March 25.

Dr. Garnett, lecturing the other evening on "The Dictionary of National Biography," held out hopes that this great work might be completed in 1899. It will fill about 25,000 pages, and deal with about 30,000 names.

Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons publish "A History of China," being the historical chapters from S. W. Williams's "The Middle Kingdom," supplemented by a chapter upon recent events, prepared by Mr. F. W. Williams.

Dr. G. E. Wire, secretary of the fund for a memorial bust of the late W. F. Poole, reports that \$380 of the needed \$500 has been subscribed, and solicits further contributions. Dr. Wire's address is 1574 Judson Ave., Evanston, Ill.

Professor Willard Fiske has placed some five hundred additional volumes in the Dante library of Cornell University. This special collection now embraces over six thousand volumes, practically all of which are the gift of Professor Fiske.

The "Novoe Vremya" of St. Petersburg states that the conclusion of Pushkin's "Russalka" has been discovered among the poet's manuscripts, and will soon be published. There are about two hundred verses in the newly-found fragment.

Mr. Charles Day Lanier — son of the poet Lanier, from whom a strong love of Nature has been inherited

— has made a study of forest-life which will appear in "Scribner's Magazine" for April, with the prepossessing title of "The Oak-Dwellers."

A case of literary versatility is that of Dr. Henry Van Dyke, the New York preacher, whose published works last year ranged from a volume of sermons to one on fishing and hunting, and this year will include a volume of poems and another of short stories.

The February publications of the American Economic Association are a Handbook of the Association for 1897 (including a report of the last December meeting), and the presidential address of Dr. H. C. Adams, upon the subject of "Economics and Jurisprudence."

Apropos of our recent article on women at German universities (THE DIAL, Feb. 1, 1897), we may note that Miss Ellen C. Hinsdale (daughter of Dr. B. A. Hinsdale of Michigan) has achieved the distinction of a successful examination at Göttingen in Germanic and Anglo-Saxon studies and in philosophy.

Bacon's Essays and the first part of Malory's "Morte Darthur" are the latest additions to the series of "Temple Classics," published in this country by the Macmillan Co. The archaic spelling and punctuation of the original have been retained in the "Essays," but in the "Morte Darthur" both are "modernized" so far as possible.

The illustrated "International Magazine," which has for its main feature the publication of translations of current continental literature, begins in its March number as a special feature an "international register" of first-class passengers sailing from our Atlantic ports, with vessels and dates. The "International" is published at 358 Dearborn Street, Chicago.

The "Cumulative Index to a Selected List of Periodicals," issued by the Cleveland Public Library, has entered upon its second year with an enlarged list, including seventy-five periodicals in the monthly index. Twenty-five others will be included in the annual volume published at the end of the year. The current issue (January-February) contains a special Cuban list of great value.

Dr. Nansen's "Farthest North" is now definitely announced by Messrs. Harper & Brothers for publication on the 19th inst. The work is in two large octave volumes, profusely illustrated, and, being published simultaneously in several languages, is attracting the attention of the whole reading world. It will be reviewed, from advance sheets already received, in the next issue of The Dial.

With the March number, Mr. John Lane begins the publication in this country of "The International Studio," a monthly magazine of fine and applied art, edited by Mr. Charles Holme. It turns out to be the familiar London "Studio" under a new name, with a few pages of American notes at the end. The magazine is profusely illustrated, and exceedingly attractive in appearance, to say nothing of the marked excellence of the contents.

Mr. A. J. Grant's new edition of Rawlinson's Herodotus gives us the text unchanged — except for the substitution of the Greek names of the gods for the Latin forms used by the translator — but abridges the notes greatly, and leaves out the appendices altogether. The resulting work, now imported by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons, is contained within two volumes of moderate size, and the price, of course, is much less than that asked for the earlier and fuller edition.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

[The following list, containing 53 titles, includes books coived by THE DIAL since its last issue.]

GENERAL LITERATURE.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

John Gabriel Borkman. By Henrik Ibsen; trans. by William Archer. 16mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 198. "Green Tree Library." Stone & Kimball. \$1.50 net.

The Children. By Alice Meynell. 16mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 134. John Lane. \$1.25.

Death—and Afterwards. By Sir Edwin Arnold, M.A. With a Supplement. With portrait, 12mo, uncut, pp. 65.

New Amsterdam Book Co. 60 cts.

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